

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 7488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: AFM-PARTY PACT REVIEW

COMMISSION NAMED

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL COMMISSION TO RENEGOTIATE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM) - PARTIES PACT IS WEIGHTED IN FAVOR OF "POLITICAL" FACTION WHO FAVOR CONTINUED IMPORTANT AFM ROLE. HOWEVER, "OPERATIONALS" FAVORING REDUCED ROLE HAVE THE GUNS. IN FIRST INTERVIEW SINCE ABORTIVE NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES ECHOED "OPERATIONAL" LINE THAT ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE TOTALITY OF MILITARY. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMISSION NAMED TO REVIEW PACT: THE FIVE-MEMBER COMMISSION

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OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) TO DISCUSS AFM-PARTIES PACT

IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN MEETING WITH THE PARTIES TODAY (DEC 17).
MEMBERS ARE: ARMY CHIEF GEN RAMALHO EANES; LISBON MILITARY REGION COM
MANDER
BG VASCO LOURENCO; FOREIGN MINISTER MAJ MELO ANTUNES; MAJ CANTO
E CASTRO; AND CDR MARTINS GUERREIRO.

2. COSTA GOMES INTERVIEWED: IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC INTERVIEW
SINCE THE NOV 25 ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT, PRESIDENT FRANCISCO
COSTA GOMES STATED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL GOAL OF THE PORTUGUESE
REVOLUTION -- THE CREATION OF A DEMOCRATIC, PLURALISTIC SOCIALIST
SOCIETY RESPECTING THE PARTICULAR "IDIOSYNCRACIES" OF THE
PORTUGUESE PEOPLE -- HAD NOT BEEN ALTERED BY THE COUP. IN RES-
PONSE TO QUESTIONS BY SPANISH TELEVISION NETWORK INTERVIEWERS,
COSTA GOMES DENIED THAT THE DEC 12 CONSTITUTIONAL LAW FOR
RESTRUCTURING MILITARY MEANT END OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT;
RATHER, AFM WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE TOTALITY OF ARMED
FORCES. COSTA GOMES FURTHER DENIED ASSERTIONS THAT COMMUNIST
PARTY COULD NOT OPERATE FREELY IN PARTS OF PORTUGAL SUCH AS THE
NORTH AND THE AZORES. COMMUNISTS HAD LITTLE SUPPORT IN THOSE REGIONS.

COSTA GOMES SAID, BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO ADAPT THEIR TACTICS TO THE
MORE CONSERVATIVE POPULACE FOUND THERE.

3. CUNHAL IN CUBA: COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL
LEFT ON DEC 15 FOR HAVANA WHERE HE WILL REPRESENT THE PCP
AT THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS. IN CUNHAL'S ABSENCE, THE
PCP IS BEING REPRESENTED IN DISCUSSIONS OVER RECOMPOSITION OF
THE SIXTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
OTAVIO PATO. CUNHAL IS EXPECTED BACK BY DEC 22.

4. COMMENT: COMPOSITION OF THE RC COMMISSION FOR RENEGOTIATING
THE PACT IS SLANTED TOWARDS THE SIDE OF THE "POLITICOS," RATHER
THAN THE "OPERATIONALS." FORMER, INCLUDING ANTUNES, MARTINS
GUERREIRO, AND PROBABLY LOURENCO WILL BE IN FAVOR OF CONTINUED
MAJOR ROLE FOR AFM IN POLITICAL PROCESS. "OPERATIONALS,"
WITH EANES AND CANTO E CASTRO, WILL BE IN MINORITY ON COMMISSION
BUT IN FACT HAVE THE GUNS AND REPRESENT THE PREVAILING VIEW
OF THE DOMINANT ELEMENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES TODAY.

5. NAMING OF MARTINS GUERREIRO TO COMMISSION INDICATES HE WILL
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STAY ON THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. THERE WAS SOME QUESTION
OVER HS FUTURE AFTER THE NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT BECAUSE OF HIS
CLOSE IDENTIFICATION WITH THE COMMUNIST-LINING GROUP WITHIN THE
RC. MARTINS GUERREIRO IS, HOWEVER, RESPECTED AS ONE OF THE
SMARTEST OFFICERS ON THE RC.

6. COSTA GOMES'S' STATEMENT ON FUTURE OF AFM IS IMPORTANT
IN THAT IT COMPLEMENTS VIEW -- FIRST TAKEN BY EANES -- THAT

CONCEPT OF AFM AS EXCLUSIVE (AND LEFT-ORIENTED) BODY SHOULD BE
EXPANDED TO INCLUDE CONSIDERABLY MORE MODERATE ARMED FORCES
AS A WHOLE.
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